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By Mufti A.H Elias

THE SHARI LENGTH OF THE BEARD

The purpose of this pamphlet is to emphasize the importance of the length of the beard. Many Muslims have queried regarding this point. I have also found that people prefer keeping a beard in imitation of what's in vogue rather than that prescribed by Nabi (sallallahu alaihi wasallam). A Compilation of this nature has become important because the impact of the Western way of life seems to be luring unwary Muslims into such a craze that the importance of the beard itself is being doubted and scoffed at. Since many articles have been printed regarding the importance of the beard itself, this deals with the importance of the LENGTH of the beard. To whose who feel the issue is trivial to worry about, may ALLAAH guide them. BUT to those who genuinely wish to learn and practice what is right here is sufficient proof from the Quran, Ahadith and the learned scholars. "For Muslim males to grow a beard is wajib (compulsory); and to let it grow a fist length is wajib; to cut or shave it without any Shari reason is haraam (totally prohibited); he who does so is a faasiq (sinner); to shorten it less than a fist length is makhruh tahrimi (near haraam), to repeatedly (shorten) is sinful, and upon these laws there is IJMA, (consensus of opinion)". -- Dari Aur Ambiyya Ki Sunnate- Mufti Saeed Palanpuri.

CONCERNING ADHERENCE TO THE SUNNAT, ALLAAH SAYS:

1. *"O you who believe, obey ALLAAH and the RASUL and those in authority from among you" (4;59);*
2. *"O you who believe, respond to ALLAAH and His RASUL when he calls you to that which gives you LIFE" (8;24);*
3. *"O you who believe, obey ALLAAH and His RASUL and TURN NOT AWAY when you hear (him speak)" (8;20);*
4. *"Whoever obeys the RASUL, he indeed obeys ALLAAH" (4;30;);*
5. *"And whatever the RASUL GIVES you, ACCEPT IT and whatever he FOR BIDS you, ABSTAIN (from it)" (59;7);*
6. *"Certainly you have in the RASUL of ALLAAH a beautiful pattern (of conduct), for him who hopes in ALLAAH and in the last day and remember ALLAAH much" (33;21);*
7. *"Nor does he say of his own desires, it is nought but revelation that is revealed" (53;3/4).*

IMPORTANCE OF THE BEARD IN RASULULLAH (SALLALLAHU ALAYHI WASALLAM)'S WORDS:-

1. *Rasulullah (S.A.W.) says "Trim closely the moustache, and let the beard flow*

(grow)". Ibn Umar (R.A.) in Muslim, hadith no. 489.

2. *"Rasulullah (S.A.W) ordered us to trim the moustache closely and spare the beard" (Ibn Umar in Muslim-hadith no. 449).*
3. *Rasulullah (S.A.W.) said "Act against (contrary) to the polytheists, trim closely the moustache and grow the beard" (Ibn Umar (R.A.) in Muslim hadith no. 500).*
4. *Rasulullah (S.A.W.) said "Trim closely the moustache and grow the beard". (Abu-Hurairah (R.A.) in Muslim hadith no. 501).*
5. *Rasulullah (S.A.W.) said "I have no connection with one who shaves, shouts and tears his clothing eg. in grief or affication". (Abu Darda (R.A.) in Bukhari and Muslim).*
6. *Rasulullah (S.A.W.) said "Any one who shaves has no claim to the mercy of ALLAAH" (Ibn Abbas (R.A.) in Tibrani).*
7. *Hadhrat Abdullah Ibn Umar (R.A.) used to cut that portion of beard (which exceeds the grip of the hand) (Tirmizi).*
8. *The teachings of Hadhrat Ammar Bin Yaasir, Abdullah Ibn Umar, Sayyindina Umar, Abu Hurairah and Jaabir (R.A.), indicate that ALL used to keep beards that was one fist in length or more. Hadhrat Jaabir (R.A.) had said; "We used to grow long beards and only during Hajj and Umrah did we trim them to the required length".*
9. *Hadhrat Abdullah Ibn Umar (R.A.) relates that; "He who imitates the kuffar (non-believers) and dies in that state he will be raised up with them on the Day of Qiyamat (Judgement)."*

It is reported in Tabrani Vol. 3 Page 90/91 - that Kaiser, the King of Persia, after having read the letter sent by the RASUL of ALLAAH (S.A.W.) inviting him to accept the faith of Islaam, ordered his sub-ordinate Bayon (Badhum), the governor of Yemen, to send two persons to bring the RASUL of Islaam before him. Bayon accordingly sent two messengers who according to the fashion of those days, were clean shaven but with long moustaches. When they appeared before the RASUL of ALLAAH, (S.A.W.) he very much disliked the unnatural appearances of those persons and said; "Woe to you, Woe to you. Who ordered you to adopt such appearances? They said; "Our lord Kaiser". The RASUL of ALLAAH (S.A.W.) then told them "My Rabb COMMANDED me to lenghten my beard and clip my moustache".

THE BEARD ACCORDING TO THE GREAT IMAMS OF JURISPRUDENCE

HANIFIES : According to the Hanifies "To shorten the beard less than a FIST

LENGTH is HARAAM and on this is IJMA (consensus of opinion)". Imam Muhammed (R.A.) in his book "Kitabul Aathaar" relates from Imam Abu Hanifa (R.A.) who relates from Hadhrat Haytham (R.A.) who relates from Ibn Umar (R.A.) that he (Ibn Umar) used to hold his beard in his hand and cut off which was longer. Imam Muhammed (R.A.) says that this is what then followed and this was the decision of Imam Abu Hanifa (R.A.).

SHAFIES : Imam Shafi (R.A.) in his Kitabul Umm states, "To shave the beard is HARAAM". (Shari Minhaj dar Shara Fasl Aqueeqa).

MALIKIES : Sheikh Ahmad Nafarawi Maliki in the commentary of Imam Abu Zayd's booklet states, "to shave the beard is without doubt haraam according to all the Imams", it is also mentioned in 'Tamheed' which is a commentary of "Muatta" (Sunnan Imam Malik (R.A.)) that to shave the beard is HARAAM and among males, the only ones to resort to thiis (practice) are the HERMAPHRODITES.

HAMBALIES : The Hambalies, in their famous Al-Khanie's Hambli Fatawa Kitab state that "to grow the beard is essential and to shave it is HARAAM". Also in the Hambali Mathab books "Sharahul Muntahaa" and "Sharr Manzoomatul Aadaab", it is stated "The most accepted view is that it is HARAAM (prohibited to shave the beard)".

THE BEARD ACCORDING TO THE SCHOLARS OF ISLAM

1. Durre-Mukhtaar states "The length of the beard is one fist".
2. Commentator of Mishkat, Hadhrat Muhaddith Abdul Haq Dehlevi (R.A.) says; "to keep he beard ONE FIST length is WAAJIB (compulsory)".
3. Ibn Jazm Zahari writes, "To clip the moustache and to let the beard flow (grow) is FARZ (obligatory)" - (Al Mahly in Vol 2 Page 320. quotes the above hadith no. 500) as support.
4. The commentators of Miskhat, Shaykh Abdul Haq Muhaddith of Delhi says; "It is incumbent (wajib) to wear (a beard) to a fist's length and it is called approved (masnun) because it is a religion custom, it is sunnat, that is, the practise of all Prophets and is proven from the Rasul of Allah (S.A.W.)'s practise" (Ashiat ul Lamaat Vol. 1 page 288).
5. "To shave off the beard is unlawful (haraam) and one who shaves his beard is legally speaking an unrighteous fellow (fasiq); hence, it is NOT PERMISSIBLE to appoint such a man as an Imam and to say Taraweeh behind such an Imam is MAKRUH-E-TAHRIMI (near prohibition)". (Sham-Vol 1. page 523).
6. The Durre-Mukhtar states; "No one has called it permissible to trim it (the beard) less than FIST LENGTH as is being done by some westernised Muslims and hermaphrodites" (Vol. 2 page 155).
7. The Durre-Mukhtar states; "It is forbidden (haraam) for a man to cut off another's beard" (Vol. 5 page 359).
8. "To shave off the beard and to trim it more than the legal length is impermissble and forbidden (haraam). One who does so is a fasiq and his evidence is

rejectable, his Imamate is near prohibited" (Fatawa Rahimiyah, Vol.2, page 195).

9. "The beard in its time (i.e. when it begins to grow) is the cause of handsomeness and adornment, which is completely lost on shaving it" (Hedaya Vol. 4, page 571).
10. "To wear the beard upto one fist in length is prescribed but much more than that is contrary to the practise of the Rasul of Allaah (S.A.W.)" (Al-Ikhtiyar, Vol 4, page 167).
11. Moulana Husain Ahmad Madani (RA) in his book, "The Philosophy of the Beard", writes: "Rasulullah (S.A.W.) has COMMANDED the Sahaba (RA) and the Ummah to lengthen their beards and make this a symbol and uniform of a believer. It is therefore not permissible to shave, shorten or to keep a small (goatee) beard".
12. Moulana Ashraf Ali Thanvi (RA), an authority on Islam writes, "It is a unanimous verdict for the Ummah that to shorten the beard less than a grip of the hand is forbidden".
13. Moulana Thanaullah (RA) of Panipat says, "To clip the beard less than a FIST'S LENGTH is unlawful (haraam). (Mala buda Minho, page 130).

CONCLUSION

Thus a Muslim who shaves or shortens his beard is like a hermophrodite, his Imamate is near prohibition, his evidence is not valid, he will not have the right to vote or of being voted for. Shaving and shortening the beard is the action of the non-believers. Imam Ghazzali (RA) says, "know that the key to total bliss (saadah) lies in following the Sunnah and in emulating the life of Rasulullah (S.A.W.) in ALL that issues from him, and in ALL his doings even if it concerns the manner of his eating, rising, sleeping, and speaking. I do not say this in relation to rituals in worship ONLY beacuse there is no way of neglecting the Sunnah reported of him in such matters - but what I say INCLUDES EVERY ASPECT of his daily life". (Kitab al Arbain Addin, Cairo 1344, page 89). Allaah Taala told Nabi (S.A.W.) to say, "Say IF you love Allaah, follow me, Allaah will love you" (3-31).

The daily recitation of a band of angels of ALLAAH is "HOLY is the Being who adorned men with beard and women with plaits and braids" (Takmela e Bahr al Raiq Vol 3 page 331). ALLAAH TAALA says "And when true believers are called to ALLAAH and His RASUL (S.A.W.) (to accept and practise the law and commands of ALLAAH and His RASUL (S.A.W.) that he may pass judgement upon them, their ONLY reply is "We hear and obey" Such men shall surely prosper" (24/51).

THE CALL IS TO GROW A FIST LENGTH BEARD, LET US HEAR IT AND OBEY TO PROSPER.

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